REMARKS

Amendments

The specification has been amended to conform the text more closely to accepted U.S. spelling and grammar conventions.

Claims 1-32 and 37 have been amended to more clearly define the invention and to place the claims in accordance with U.S. patent practice. Claims 4, 11-13 and 31-32 have been amended to remove the dependency of a multiple dependent claim on another multiple dependent claim. New claim 38 is directed to an embodiment of the invention canceled from claim 4. New claim 39 is directed to an embodiment of the invention canceled from claim 24. Claims 33 and 34 have been canceled.

Applicant submits that no new matter is introduced by any of the amendments.

Claims 1-32 and 37-Versions With Markings to Show Changes Made:

1. (Amended) An oral pharmaceutical dosage form comprising at least a H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and a gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue compound as active components, and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, wherein the dosage form is in the form of a fixed unit dosage form [comprising at least these two pharmaceutically active components].

2. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the dosage form is a tablet formulation.

3. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the dosage form is a capsule formulation.

4. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1 [any of claims 1-3], wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor compound is protected by an enteric coating layer[, and optionally a separating layer is applied under the enteric coating separating the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor from the enteric coating layer].

5. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the fixed dosage form further [in addition to the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue] comprises a calcium channel blocking agent.

6. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to any of claims 1-5, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is omeprazole, an alkaline salt thereof, one of its single enantiomer or an alkaline salt thereof.

7. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 6, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is omeprazole magnesium salt.

8. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 6, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is S-omeprazole magnesium salt.

9. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to any of claims 1-5, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is lansoprazole, [or] one of its single enantiomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to any of claims 1-5, wherein the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is pantoprazole, [or] one of its single enantiomers or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

11. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1 [one of claims 1-10], wherein the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue compound is selected from the group consisting of misoprostol, enisoprost, enprostil, [or] one of the single enantiomers thereof or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof.

12. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1 [any of claims 1-11], wherein the amount of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is in the range of 1 - 200 mg and the amount of the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue is in the range of 80 - 1000 µg.

13. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 1 [any of claims 1-12], wherein the amount of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is in the range of 5 - 80 mg and the amount of the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue is in the range of 100 - 800 µg.

14. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the tablet consists of two different layers, a first layer comprising the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and a second layer comprising the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue.

15. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the tablet formulation is a multiple unit tableted dosage form comprising:

a) the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor in the form of enteric coating layered pellets,

b) the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue compound, and optionally

c) pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

compressed together into a tablet, wherein [whereby] the enteric coating layer covering the individual pellets has mechanical properties such that the tableting of the pellets together with the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue and the optional [optionally] pharmaceutically acceptable excipients does not significantly affect the acid resistance of the enteric coating layered pellets.

16. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 15, wherein the enteric coating of the individual pellets comprises a plasticized enteric coating layer material.

17. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 15, wherein the enteric coating layered pellets are further covered with an over-coating layer comprising a film forming polymer and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

18. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to any of claims 15-17, wherein the tablet is divisible.

19. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 2, wherein at least one part of the tablet is in the form of an extended release formulation.

20. (Amended) The [A] tablet dosage form according to claim 19, wherein the part of the tablet giving extended release is a hydrophilic matrix.

21. (Amended) The [A] tablet dosage form according to claim 19, wherein the part of the tablet giving extended release is a hydrophobic matrix.

22. (Amended) The [A] tablet dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the tablet consists of two different layers, a first layer comprising the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor in the form of enteric coating layered pellets compressed with tablet excipients into a layer, and a second layer giving an extended release of the incorporated gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue.

23. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the tablet comprises enteric coating layered pellets of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor layered with a further layer comprising the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue, and the layered pellets are compressed with tablet excipients to form a tablet.

24. (Amended) The [A] tableted dosage form according to claim 23, wherein the pellets before compression to a tablet are [is] covered by a pigmented film coating layer[, or the compressed tablet is covered by a pigmented tablet coat].

25. (Amended) The [A] tablet dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the tablet consists of two types of layered pellets, the first type consisting [consists] of enteric coating layered pellets comprising the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and the second type consisting [consists] of pellets comprising the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue, wherein all pellets are compressed together with tablet excipients to form a tablet.

26. (Amended) The [A] tablet dosage form according to claim 22, wherein the tablet consists of enteric coating layered pellets comprising the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and pellets comprising the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue incorporated in a matrix giving an extended release of the prostaglandin analogue.

27. (Amended) The [A] dosage form according to claim 3, wherein the capsule comprises two types of layered pellets, the first type consisting [consists] of enteric coating layered pellets comprising the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the second type consisting [consists]

of pellets comprising the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue, and wherein all pellets and the optional [optionally] pharmaceutically acceptable excipients are filled in the capsule.

28. (Amended) A process for the manufacture of a fixed dosage form comprising a H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and one or more gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue(s) in a capsule, the process comprising the steps of: [characterized in that]

(a) preparing the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor [is prepared] in the form of enteric coating layered pellets,

(b) preparing [and] the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue [is prepared] in the form of pellets coating layered with an extended release film,

(c) mixing the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor pellets with the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue pellets [are mixed], optionally with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and

(d) filling the mixture into [is filled in to] capsules.

29. (Amended) A process for the manufacture of a fixed dosage form comprising a H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and one or more gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogues in a multiple unit tableted dosage form, the process comprising the steps of: [characterized in that]

(a) preparing the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor [is prepared] in the form of enteric coating layered pellets,

(b) mixing the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor [and these pellets are mixed] with pellets

comprising the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue, and optionally with pharmaceutically acceptable tablets excipients, and

(c) compressing [whereafter] the mixture [is compressed] into multiple unit tablets without causing any significant change of the acid resistance of the enteric coating layered pellets.

30. (Amended) A process for the manufacture of a fixed dosage form comprising a H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor and one or more gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogues in a multiple unit tableted dosage form, the process comprising the steps of: [characterized in that]

(a) preparing the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor [is prepared] in the form of enteric coating layered pellets,

(b) preparing [and] the gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue [is prepared] in the form of coating layered pellets wherein the coating layer is an extended release layer,

(c) mixing the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor pellets with the antisecretory prostaglandin analogue pellets and [are mixed,] optionally with pharmaceutically acceptable tablet excipients, and

(d) compressing the mixture [compressed] into tablets without causing any significant change of the acid resistance of the enteric coating layered pellets.

31. (Amended) A method for the treatment and prophylaxis [profylaxis] of gastrointestinal disorders by administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically [therapeutic] effective dosage form according to any of claims 1-5 [1-27].

32. (Amended) A method for avoiding gastrointestinal side-effects normally associated with gastric antisecretory prostaglandin analogue medicament treatment [in mammals and man] by administering to a host in need thereof a therapeutically effective dosage form according to any of claims 1-5 [1-27].

37. (Amended) The [A] blister pack according to claim 36 comprising an additional medicament which is a calcium channel blocking agent.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-32 and 35-39 are pending. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-32 and 35-39 are directed to patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of the claims.

No fee should be due in connection with this Communication. However, if a fee is required, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

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